

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Ja'afari, Permanent Mission of Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

I thank you, Madam President, for convening this very important meeting at a very timely juncture.

Members of the Council can bear witness to the numerous times I have actively sought to draw their attention, and that of the Organization — as represented by the Secretary-General, various high-level officials, the Secretary-General's special representatives and humanitarian agencies — to the atrocities, violations and immoral religious opinions held by armed terrorist groups for over three years against Syrian women. This Chamber can bear witness to the many times we have warned of the dangers of the spread of non-Islamic, Takfiri, pagan terrorism and the need to combat its perpetrators, as well as to the hundreds of letters, reports, statements, photographs, videos and medical evidence that my delegation has provided to international officials over the past three years, including documentation of the responsibility of various armed terrorist groups and the sponsors who have deployed them in Arab States, the region and beyond for the crimes of rape, sexual abuse, kidnapping, human trafficking and the murder of women and girls in Syria.

This Chamber also bears witness to the number of times that we have asked the Governments of those States that support terrorist armed groups with funds, weapons and media assistance to stop that support, halt their hostile and interventionist policies against my State, and show respect for the conditions of membership in this international Organization, primarily respect for the sovereignty of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs.

Unfortunately, the efforts of our delegation have only been met with shameful rejection and denial. The so-called international community, including some high officials of the United Nations and several Western States that are known for how often they speak out in support of the rights of women, together with Western and Arab media outlets, have all been too busy levelling accusations against the Syrian Government. Their main attention has been focused on criticizing the Government, inventing falsehoods against it and demonizing it in order to weaken Syria's sovereignty and destroy its State in order to create a situation of utter chaos as has happened in Libya, for example.

Today, more than three years after the start of the multinational terrorist war that was launched against my country, in which the women of Syria have suffered the worst forms of extremism and terrorism, painful facts and reality have proven the validity and accuracy of what we have tried to tell the Council so very often. Today, in their reports and statements, including in the report before us today (S/2014/693), the Secretary-General and his representatives have acknowledged and recognized the reality of terrorism affecting Syria. However, that recognition and acknowledgment have come too late. Yes, the Member States are too late in helping the Syrian Government in its war against terrorism.

The question before us now is, what is the cost of that delay? Unfortunately, the price has been the lives of hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens, including men, children and the elderly, and the suffering of millions from the worst forms of terrorism, extremism and the destruction of infrastructure. What is most deplorable today is that until this very minute we have not yet heard a word of apology from those who persist in their mistakes and crimes or an apology for their prolonged denial of reality.

A number of members and non-members of the Security Council have evoked in their statements today the magnitude of the suffering of Syrian women in Syria and in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Some States have boasted that they have spent millions of dollars to assist Syrian women in their ordeal, and that is true. However, the very same countries have overlooked — and blatantly so — the fact that the policies of their Governments towards my country were the primary cause for this level of suffering of Syrian women and this degree of deterioration of their status as a result of the direct involvement of those Governments in financing and underwriting terrorism and in facilitating terrorists' transit and passage. From the start of the crisis in my country, those countries have armed terrorist armed groups and have acknowledged that fact publicly. They have supported terrorists financially and through the media, have helped with recruitment for these organizations in their territories and have created training camps for terrorists in various countries before sending them off to Syria to carry out their crimes following a name change from “terrorists” to “the moderate opposition”.

We should also never forget the so-called sex jihad, in which girls have been recruited — France and Tunisia are supposedly the greatest sources for these misled and misguided girls — to travel to Syria through the borders with Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, where terrorist groups are carrying out killings, rapes, sexual and psychological abuse, forced marriages, trafficking in human beings and human organs, making women victims of Takfiri ideologies and a distorted and backward vision of women, in which they are treated like spoils of war and personal property — slaves — of the terrorists who falsely call themselves jihadists.

In conclusion, today, now that terrorism has come knocking at the gates of those States that have long denied its existence in Syria and is exploiting women and girls, and now that extremist and criminal ideologies are spreading, it is time to ask whether those States engaged in a terrorist war against my country should not start rethinking their criminal plans and their support for terrorism in Syria. Is it not time for senior officials at the United Nations to reconsider their scepticism about the evidence provided by the Syrian Government about the activities of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria? Is it not time now for everybody to start implementing resolutions 1325 (2000), 2133 (2014), 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), in a manner free of subjective and prejudiced interpretations?

We reiterate here our call for a sincere and honest international effort focused on putting an end to the crimes committed by criminal groups and seeks to create a mechanism for holding accountable Governments of States that have jurisdiction over those who support or help spread those ideologies. Those ideas will, with their violations, denigrations and demeaning view of women, have

a noxious impact on the rights of women everywhere because their negative effects and ramifications will not be limited to Syria.